

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Jamie Berzas upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

WHEREAS, established in 1976, the Louisiana Folklife Center is a research facility that serves as an archival repository of eight hundred artist and subject files, one thousand five hundred audio recordings, one hundred videotapes, a growing print library of books and periodicals, and five thousand photographs; these resources have been used by CBS Evening News, Turner Broadcasting Company, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting and other individuals, groups, and agencies; its faculty also coordinates the Natchitoches-Northwestern State University Folklife Festival; and

WHEREAS, an agency of Northwestern State University, the Center's mission is to identify, document, and present Louisiana's rich history of folklore and folklife; and

WHEREAS, Mamou-born Jamie Berzas began his musical journey at the age of ten, when his father taught him how to play the accordion; Jamie also learned how to play the guitar and the drums; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 in his hometown, he founded Jamie Berzas and the Cajun Tradition Band, of which he is the lead vocalist; the Cajun Tradition Band played at the 1984 World's Fair in Louisiana and the 1987 Annual Cajun Music Festival at Loretta Lynn's Dude Ranch; and

WHEREAS, Jamie's band was awarded the title of Musicien Du Bal after winning first place in a 1987 Bal De Maison contest at Acadian Village in Lafayette; Jamie Berzas and the Cajun Tradition Band also received a Grammy nomination in 1989 for its album, *A' La Veille Facon*, in the category of Most Traditional Folk Music Recording; and

WHEREAS, at the 2000 Mamou Cajun Music Festival, Jamie was honored for his contributions to the genre; in 2005, he was inducted onto Fred's Lounge Wall of Fame in

Mamou where he shares the wall with Cajun greats Belton Richard, Aldus Roger, Jo-El Sonnier, and Grand Ole Opry star Jimmy C. Newman; Fred's Lounge is world-renowned for its Saturday morning dances with live Cajun bands; and

WHEREAS, the melodies and harmonies of the life of Jamie Berzas have contributed to the folklife and folklore of Louisiana's rich and diverse musical culture; Jamie Berzas merits a special measure of commendation upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Jamie Berzas upon his 2019 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists; does hereby congratulate him on his lifetime of musicianship and musical achievements; and does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success, prosperity, and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Jamie Berzas.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES